

UNITY IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE FUEL Co-ordinated Effort Among Allies Necessary in Production of Coal SOLDIERS MAY SUFFER

Wisdom of a "Generalissimo" on Civil Side of War Is Pointed Out

American Negroes Put Bayonet to Good Use

By CHARLES H. GRASTY Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. London, Aug. 7.—Officers from the front bring astonishing reports of work done by American cohorts of troops, brigaded with Gouraud's army east of Rheims. Their specialty is the bayonet, in the use of which they excel all others. Their proverbial partiality for the razor as a weapon makes them prefer the cold steel and they have piled up a score in killing Germans which breaks all previous records. The French officers are delighted with their prowess, and will welcome fresh colored contingents to work alongside their own Africans.

By CHARLES H. GRASTY Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. London, Aug. 7.

The Americans here are all solid in their faith in the military success in France. They expect some kind of a spectacular enterprise from the German navy as a last card, and they are prepared for further blows in France, but the military men don't believe that Hindenburg can ever hit as hard in the future as in the past, while the Allies grow constantly stronger. While this optimism on the military side is general, one hears many warnings respecting conditions hitherto pointed out in these cables. The coal outlook in particular is giving concern to those who deal with subjects of supply and transport. One who speaks with knowledge said today: "There must be immediate co-ordinated effort for the production and distribution of fuel for future months. The main supplies for England, France and Italy must be drawn from British mines. The labor is necessarily British. And set inevitably the heavy methods of recruiting the British army in the field has depleted the ranks of industrial labor to an extent which imperils the fuel supply for the next winter.

Troops May Suffer "The conditions do not concern the civilian population alone, though they are serious in that quarter where good morale is so closely related to military operations. The armies also are directly affected.

"Unless intelligently planned action on a large scale is carried out promptly, our troops will probably be subjected to cold suffering next winter. The climate of Europe is extremely trying. Even in midsummer many of us find it difficult to keep warm. When winter comes, naturally the conditions will be much harder. "American soldiers are accustomed to warmth, and while otherwise hearty and rugged, cannot stand extreme cold. "I am sure that America will immediately respond to the need of providing our army with the means of keeping warm and healthy. To accomplish this there should be an infusion of the energetic spirit characteristic of Americans when the emergency presents itself. The recent trouble is labor scarcity. "The urgent necessity exists to fit it up without a moment's delay and more strenuously. Our method of waging war as separate nations instead of under unified supervision involves a tremendous loss of efficiency. It is unthinkable that England will still be combing men out of mines for military duty in France instead of drawing on America for coal and iron. "British miners at work where their effort counts at the maximum. "There is no limit to the mischief which may result from allowing materials to drift along until it is too late to make and carry out a well-ordered and far-reaching plan.

Definite Measures Needed "Winter is near and every day is precious. Everybody knows in a vague way how serious the outlook is, and especially in France and Italy, but there is still wanting concentrated attention and definite measures to provide against the impending danger.

"Perhaps when America understands that our troops now facing such a brave part in battle are facing the inclemencies of the weather, she will accord proper provision for their health and comfort, the Government will move for quick effective action. "With the success of the success of the military unified command before our eyes, it is difficult to understand why the same sound principle is not applied to the Allies had some one man command. Foch on the military, one could write down the German plan for all the Allies and still give them credit for some sort of compromise. "The Allied scatteration and procrastination. "Perhaps Lord Reading who now understands American conditions, is bringing some plan to set the Allied house in order in the respects referred to."

WOULD HOLD AMERICANS Hamburg Newspaper Argues Against Exchange of Prisoners

Amsterdam, Aug. 7.—Discussing the proposed exchange of American and German war prisoners, the Nachrichten of Hamburg, takes it upon itself to advise the German Government to reject all such overtures on the following grounds: "First, the Americans by this agreement would enjoy exceptional treatment, which, besides being unfair to the other prisoners, would enormously facilitate recruiting in America; second, assuming that the Americans have taken up the exchange, the Germans, who would be natural for the Allies of America to make up the requisite number of prisoners, which would indirectly enhance America's reputed achievements. "The newspaper further demands that, as a retaliation for America's disgraceful entry into the war, the idea of an exchange should be entertained only after all other prisoners are released. "Further condition of this exchange, says, should be that the American Government release the officials of the American Red Cross, as the Germans are insisting that the German Government should release the American Red Cross officials."

U. S. TROOPS START FIERCE DRIVE

Continued from Page One through the villages and farmhouses he left infernal machines. The whole countryside is pockmarked with shell holes by tens of thousands, many formerly fair fields, some of these fields are bloody fields. One I saw I can never forget. To east, to west and north of the road lay a wheat field, from which the enemy had harvested the grain. The battle came. A hundred yards away lay a stretch of woods. North of the wheat field was a large wood. It is a small field south of the road lay a row of bodies of Americans where German machine guns on the south side of the road had opened on them. What could cause a greater thrill than to walk forward to the road and see the bodies of the German machine gunners in their nests decorated with American bayonets. On the north side of the road were ducouts with American spades lying about, which told that our men had fallen in the fifty yards away and stretching lay dead Germans.

Scene Tells Battle Story That scene along the road told an eloquent story. The Americans had charged toward the road, only to be met by German machine gunners. Rushing on and suffering losses, they had bayoneted some of the gunners and put others to flight. One of the bodies of men from the United States along the edge of the wood, one of the men fighting positions this war has presented. "That was the last stand the Germans made against the Americans before they retired across the Vesle River. "In a skirmish north of Elsmes Monday the Americans took seven prisoners. The division, which had been put back into the line after being taken out following its defeat by the Americans at Serpont. "The American officers were surprised to find that of these seven men, who had just been placed in the Fifth Grenadier Regiment as replacements, six were Poles and another an Alsatian. "It was a surprise that such material should be used to fill up one of the Kaiser's crack regiments. When asked about it, the men replied that the enemy had no Prussians to fill up the Prussian regiments cut up in the fighting. "These seven, when asked what they thought of the war, replied, "We have had enough."

Talking to an officer who thought that this retirement situation was very significant, I asked him if the 500,000 soldiers of the new class the Germans would have this fall would be any difference in the situation. He replied: "Germany has 500,000 new Germans. The Allies have 5,000,000 new Americans. "By a side road about a thousand Americans were resting during a hike. They had not been in France as long as some other units. Down the road came an American guard with six prisoners. When the new Americans saw who they were sprang up as one man and gazed at them. Then one of them, a lad from North Carolina, spoke: "So them's boches! May God lead us to them." "That is the spirit of all the Americans who have had no share thus far in the victorious fighting. The men are eager for their chance, and are sure that they can do just a little better than their comrades who have been lucky enough to get into the fighting. Perhaps many of them will soon get their chance, for if the policy of Foch continues to be what it has been since the enemy quit Chateau-Thierry, constant pressure will be kept on his rear for days to come. "The more the Allies press the harder it will be for the enemy to establish a strong line of resistance, for despite Hindenburg and Ludendorff and "Hated Luck Willie," as the British call the Crown Prince, a retreating army, it is held, cannot be stopped in its tracks by waving a German flag in front. Our gunners are now keeping the Germans busy, and our infantry stands waiting its turn to advance again.

Far north of the road, out of the wheat field, could be seen orderly rows of shell holes, where our air artillery had laid down a creeping barrage. Behind which the troops had moved to the foe's positions at the edge of the wood. Here and there lay the body of a boy in brown who had paid the great price. "On to the edge of the wood I walked, and there was a picture that will ever linger. In a pit, perhaps fifty feet long, twenty feet wide and fifteen feet deep, the Germans had established a strong position, with emplacements in the sides for machine guns—maybe twenty of them. There in the bottom of the pit, by utter confusion, fifteen or so dead Germans and perhaps ten Americans. In front of the pit lay nine dead of our men. "The Americans had charged those machine guns even into the pit, where they fought hand-to-hand with the gunners. It seemed that while fighting there in the cockpit a shell had fallen, and the fifty yards away and stretching lay dead Germans.

A more cheerful story was told by the men inside the wood, where I saw fifty or sixty Germans in a hundred square yards, who had been killed by high explosive shells where our guns had been firing. They were lying there, and were virtually no American bodies in the wood, but there must have been several hundred dead Germans.

Bury Americans First

As we came out of the wood a burying detail was hard at work. Americans were buried first. In a hole dug by the Americans, the bodies of men from the United States along the edge of the wood, one of the men fighting positions this war has presented.

That was the last stand the Germans made against the Americans before they retired across the Vesle River. "In a skirmish north of Elsmes Monday the Americans took seven prisoners. The division, which had been put back into the line after being taken out following its defeat by the Americans at Serpont.

Million Good Shells Captured "The Americans made prompt use of some of the captured boche material. Because of our rapid advance we had need of extra engineers to work on the badly shelled roads. A whole regiment of pioneers was equipped with a stock of tools left behind by the Germans. Incidentally, in the German materials left, 1,000,000 good 77 shells have been counted. "Ludendorff, in a statement Monday, said that if they were German villages which were being left behind it would be a disaster. "The villages left were not German. According to the view in this army, the 500,000 soldiers of the new class the Germans would have this fall would be any difference in the situation. He replied: "Germany has 500,000 new Germans. The Allies have 5,000,000 new Americans. "By a side road about a thousand Americans were resting during a hike. They had not been in France as long as some other units. Down the road came an American guard with six prisoners.

GEN. MANGIN DESCRIBES GREAT ALLIED VICTORY

Carefully Planned and Executed, He Characterizes Offensive As a Regular Classic Battle of Manuever—Sudden Attack Shocks Foe

By WALTER DURANTY Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

With the French Armies, Aug. 7. In a dainty study, the glided furniture and delicate ornaments of the staff contrasted strangely with the staff maps, marked with colored chalk lines, and shell boxes, paper weight and field telephone on the desk, General Mangin gave your correspondent a description of the battle which one of the highest of France's war chiefs told me a few days ago marked the turning point of the war. "The general stood squarely before the maps, motionless, save for a quick glance at my face now and then as if to emphasize the salient point of his narrative. "Like all the distinguished French soldiers I have met, he was devoid of gestures. These are popularly supposed to be essential to Frenchmen. "It was a regular classic battle of maneuver," he said. "The battle opened with the driving back of the enemy's line ten kilometers in the first two days under the shock of a sudden attack. Then he brought up reserves and rallied. "After that the objective was clear and definite. It was the eastern end of the long ledge that runs unbroken south by the Savoye Valley from west of Villers-Cotterets Forest to the region of Grand Rozoy and Arcy. "That was the key position of the struggle, as it dominated the northwestern plateau toward Soissons, which was the bastion of the enemy's resistance. Once the mastery of that position was gained, the enemy's retreat was inevitable. He knew it, too, and the battle was won."

PEASANTS KNEEL IN PRAYER WHEN AMERICANS COME

Hidden in Cave for Five Weeks Under German Guard—Thankful for Release

By the Associated Press With the American Army on the Aisne—Marne Front, Aug. 7.

Ninety French peasants, who had been living in a large cave near Ville-Savoie, southwest of Plennes, were rescued by the Americans after having passed through two battles and remaining prisoners to the Germans for five weeks. When discovered by the Americans the peasants were nearly starved, their scant supplies of food having been almost exhausted before the last battle of the Vesle began. "The cave formerly was a quarry, and when the Germans arrived in the neighborhood, in the latter part of May, the peasants found about Ville-Savoie assembled in the cave rather than leave the vicinity of their homes. The entrance to the cave was at the foot of a hill, great layers of rock and earth acting as a covering. "The cave was struck close to the roof, several exploding directly over the place where the peasants had taken refuge, but the thick rock and earth roof was not damaged. "The peasants took all the supplies possible from their farms, but finally were compelled to appeal to the Germans for additional food. They were given an allowance so scanty they were compelled to forage for sustenance, but this procedure was difficult owing to the fact that the invaders allowed them to seek food only within a prescribed area. "The refugees mainly were elderly men and women, with a few children. When the peasants knelt in prayer at their devotions.

Situation Before the Battle Before discussing the details of the action, the general situation previous to July 15 can be stated as follows: "It is hardly doubtful that the Chemin-des-Dames drive of May 27 was not only intended to carry the Germans beyond the Aisne, but also to put them in a strong defensive position, in view of a possible flank attack during later operations against the center of the French-English line in the March battle. Rightly enough, finding the resistance less than they expected, the French-English line to the utmost, and finally reached the Marne. That formed a deep and comparatively narrow pocket, the essential weakness of the French-English line in the westward, without making any occupation of Soissons save them direct railroad communication from Laon to the lines along the Aisne and a broad, high road to Chateau-Thierry. "The drive toward Compiègne about ten days later was a pendant to the former action, the object being to flatten out the salient by a turning movement round the forests of Compiègne and Villers-Cotterets. Checked there by the June counter-attack which Mangin commanded on the left of the battlefront, the enemy launched a new blow. "This was made on the following day against the northeast corner of the Villers-Cotterets Forest, but again the advance was strictly limited and the angle of the pocket remained acute. "Mangin Takes Command "Soon afterward Mangin took command of the army, holding the front from the Aisne to the Oureq, and proceeded vigorously with preliminary operations in view of counter-stroke against the flank of the salient which the French high command had already decided to make at the first favorable opportunity. "The work of preparation for Foch's great counter-offensive consisted in gradually driving the enemy back from the line of Ambly, Courverre and Montgobert and the eastern fringe of the forest of Villers-Cotterets in a series of getting a footing across the Vesle and into the Aisne valley, which afforded an admirable "jumping-off place." Attack.

GERMAN PRESS VIEWS WAR PESSIMISTICALLY

Latest Comment of Recent Events Shows Tone of Despondency

By the Associated Press London, Aug. 7.

The despondent tone of the latest German press comments is emphasized daily in special dispatches from Holland. A dispatch to the Daily Mail from The Hague today includes an editorial by the Dusseldorf Nachrichten, which says that nobody looking into the future can see an end to the war. "For though it is true that the end might come quickly," it adds, "it could only be an end of terror, as in Russia." "The Vorwaerts, of Berlin, says that events of recent days at last have shattered the illusion, inspired by optimistic optimism, that Germany is invincible. "The German people at last realize the colossal gravity of the situation. Let us save, says the paper, that as long as the war is not ended it is not won and can be lost."

AMERICANS BUILDING BRIDGES UNDER FIRE

Lieutenant Braves German Shelling Himself, but Keeps Men Under Cover

By the Associated Press With the American Army on the Vesle—Aug. 7.

The Germans appear to be determined not to permit American engineers to throw bridges across the Vesle and as a result several American officers have had thrilling experiences. The bridge builders had been eager to proceed with their work despite the German fire and their officers have had to hold them back. "Lieutenant E. F. Mall, of California, on Tuesday was under cover with sixty men on the south bank awaiting a hull in the German shelling in order to build a bridge. It was intended to build a footbridge on the foundations of a bridge destroyed by the Germans, and then to put up a larger structure. Rather than expose his men, Lieutenant Mall, carrying two planks, started out on an exploration trip by himself. "The lieutenant reached the southern pier just as the German machine gunners commenced a heavy fire. This did not stop him. He tossed one plank into a temporary position and then put the other in place from the south pier to the pier in the middle of the river. "The enemy fire becoming warmer, Lieutenant Mall jumped into the river and took cover on the north bank. Afterward he crossed to the south bank and rejoined his command amid cheers from the soldiers. "Another point farther west of Plennes, Major Francis R. Newcomb, and Captain James F. Gowden, during an light, felled a tree across the Vesle and crossed to the north bank. There they changed over another tree, which fell toward the southern bank. Soon afterwards they had completed a footbridge with the tree trunks as supports. "The Germans and French had gone ahead of the bridge-building gang to the position and when the gang arrived they found the work well started. "The enemy discovered the footbridge soon afterwards and since has subjected it to a lively fire. "The awarding of the Medaille Militaire to General Pétain is a distinction rarely given to officers. The decoration goes to those who have distinguished themselves in a remarkable command. The confidence placed by the republic and by all the allies in the conqueror of St. Gond, the Vosges and the Somme has been fully justified. "The ceremony took place in the presence of General Pershing's staff and detachments of French and American troops. "During the presentation President Pétain expressed his compliments to General Pershing for what he termed the grand success of the American army in the recent fighting."

FOCH IS AWARDED MARSHAL'S BATON

Commander-in-Chief and His Aide, Pétain, Honored by French Ministry

By the Associated Press Paris, Aug. 7.

The Council of Ministers has elevated General Ferdinand Foch, commander-in-chief of the Allied forces on the western front, to a marshal of France. "The ministers also have conferred the military medal on General Pétain, commander-in-chief of the French armies on the western front. "The name of General Foch, Premier Clemenceau said. "At the hour when the enemy, by a formidable offensive on a front of 100 kilometers, counted on snatching the decision and imposing a German peace upon us, General Foch and his admirable troops vanquished him. "Paris is not in danger, Soissons and Chateau-Thierry have been reconquered and more than 200 villages have been delivered. Thirty-five thousand prisoners and 700 guns have been captured, and the enemy's high hopes before the attack have been crushed. The glorious Allied armies have thrown him from the banks of the Marne to the Aisne. Such are the results of the high command's strategy superbly executed by incomparable commanders. The confidence placed by the republic and by all the allies in the conqueror of St. Gond, the Vosges and the Somme has been fully justified. "The awarding of the Medaille Militaire to General Pétain is a distinction rarely given to officers. The decoration goes to those who have distinguished themselves in a remarkable command. The confidence placed by the republic and by all the allies in the conqueror of St. Gond, the Vosges and the Somme has been fully justified. "The ceremony took place in the presence of General Pershing's staff and detachments of French and American troops. "During the presentation President Pétain expressed his compliments to General Pershing for what he termed the grand success of the American army in the recent fighting."

"LITTLE MAJOR" BRINGS LUCK

Chicago Salvation Army Man Has Been "Over the Top"

By the Associated Press Paris, Aug. 7.—John T. Atkins, who was a Salvation Army major in Chicago, but who is now serving with a company of the United States army as a Salvation Army worker, has been mentioned in battalion and regimental orders and has been several times "over the top" with the battalion. He has been acclaimed the most popular man in the battalion and recommended for a commission as chaplain by the regimental commander. "Major" Atkins, who is known to the officers and men of the battalion as "the little major," to distinguish him from the real major of the organization, is said to carry the good luck of the unit with him. The boys believe that when he is with them in an engagement their casualties are light. On one occasion, when a raid was to be undertaken, the little major's unit suffered with only four casualties, while the organization, which followed them into action suffered severely. "When payday was a long time coming recently the little major gave each man in the battalion an order for seven francs on the canteen. Each took advantage of the opportunity, and the boys only a lost, and when payday came and they failed to show up to the little major with the return payment.

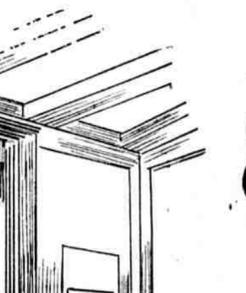
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U. S. WARSHIP CHAMPION

London, Aug. 7.—It was announced yesterday that the U. S. Navy has broken up into small assaults which made no impression. The enemy's reaction ended and again the Allies got a firm hold on the southeast corner of the Soissons plateau. "Then the Germans threw up the sponge. All next day they retreated at full speed, and at midnight the French were in Soissons. By the evening of the 3d they reached the Vesle and the battle was won. "The American torpedoed destroyer Sampson follows the Davis with more than 72,000 miles.

Counter-Attacks Withdrawn Between the 18th and 31st of July twenty-eight enemy divisions, including two from Crown Prince Rupprecht, were identified on the front of this army, but the Allies pushed on despite them. On the morning of the 28th Mangin was in position to deliver the first attack on the dominant ridge of which I spoke at the beginning. The resistance and counter-attacks were desperate, but the dogged fury of the French and British were then down. "At dawn on August 1 the Allies struck again, and this time got right up on the crest of the ridge that was the vital "cemetery hill" of the battle. Between 11 and 11 the enemy countered with the utmost determination, but Mangin held his ground. Then came a lull, and at 4 a resumption of the struggle, as the last German reserves, the fresh Eighteenth shock division from Rupprecht's front near Arras, was thrown in. But the enemy felt his grip slipping. Hardly were the advances guards of the Eleventh signaled debouching for a mass attack from Laundy Wood, when they were seen to move hurriedly back again, and when at length the counter-attacks withdrew.

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